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Message Text

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53
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-15 SAJ-01 OMB-01 EB-07 AID-05 /102 W
---------- 046301
R 091048Z OCT 75
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5421
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USLO PEKING
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
CINCPAC

UNCLAS VIENTIANE 5899

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, LA
SUBJ: REPORT OF PGNU CABINET MEETING OF OCTOBER 8, 1975

1. OUDAY SOUVANNAVONG, LAO PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNION SPOKESMAN, REPORTED TO PRESS OCTOBER 9 ON PGNU'S OCTOBER 8 CABINET MEETING. MEETING WA UNDER JOINT CHAIRMANSHIP OF DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER LEUAM INSISIENGMAY AND ACTING DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH, IN THE ABSENCE OF PRIME MINISTER SOUVANNA PHOUMA WHO IS AT LUANG PRABANG.

2. ELECTIONS: THE CABINET ADOPTED THE PROVISONAL REGULATIONS ON ELECTIONS FOR PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES. (REGULATIONS WERE FORMULATED BY JOINT NATIONAL POLITICAL COUNCIL AT ITS SPECIAL SESSION OCTOBER 3-5.)
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3. UNITED NATIONS: PHOUNE REPORTED ON HIS ACTIVITIES AS HEAD OF LAO DELEGATION TO UNGA. HE HAD MET WITH THE SYG, FOREIGN MINISTERS OF FRIENDLY COUNTRIES, AND WITH LAO RESIDENTS OF THE U.S., CANADA AND FRANCE. HE ALSO SPOKE TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE CABINET CONGRATULATED HIM ON THE RESULTS OF HIS TRIP.

4. ELECTRICITY: SOMPHAVAN INTHAVONG, SECSTATE FOR PUBLIC WORKS, REPORTED ON THE RESULTS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THAI AUTHORITIES ON THE PRICE OF ELECTRICITY SOLD BY LAOS TO THAILAND. THE OLD PRICE HAD BEEN NINE SATANG PER KWH. AS A RESULT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, THAILAND WOULD, AS OF OCTOBER 12, BEGIN PAYING 21 SATANG PER KWH. (ONE HUNDRED SATANG EQUAL ONE BAHT, WHICH IN TURN IS WORTH ABOUT FIVE U.S. CENTS.)

5. CHINESE EXPERTS: THE CABINET DECIDED TO INVITE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM THE PRC TO VISIT LAOS IN ORDER TO EXAMINE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS HERE.

6. PHOUNE: THE CABINET AUTHORIZED PHOUNE TO GO TO LPF HEADQUARTERS AT VIENGSAY "ON BUSINESS." (NO DATES WERE SPECIFIED.)

7. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS: ASKED WHEN THE PROVISIONAL ELECTION REGULATIONS WOULD COME INTO FORCE, OUDAY REPLIED THAT THIS WOULD HAPPEN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, PROBABLY IN ABOUT A WEEK. HE STRESSED THAT THESE REGU-LATIONS CONCERNED LOCAL ELECTIONS FROM VILLAE TO PROVINCE LEVEL, NOT THE GENERAL ELECTIONS THAT ARE TO BE HELD ON OR ABOUT APRIL 4, 1976.

8. IN REPLY TO QUESTION ABOUT POSSIBLE INVITATIONS TO FOREIGNERS TO ATTEND OCTOBER 12 INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATION IN VIENTIANE, OUDAY SAID EVENT WAS BEING ORGANIZED BY LOCAL REVOLUTIONARY ADMINISTRATION. HE DID NOT BELIEVE THAT BODY HAD INVITED FOREIGN DELEGATIONS TO ATTEND, ALTHOUGH LOCAL EMBASSIES WOULD BE INVITED. (COMMENT: U.S. AND THAI EMBASSIES HAVE NOT RECEIVED INVITATIONS; BRITISH AND AUSTRALIANS -- AND WE ASSUME MOST IF NOT
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ALL OTHER EMBASSIES IN VIENTIANE -- GOT THEIRES LATE AFTERNOON OCTOBER 8 OR MORNING OCTOBER 9.)

9. SIMONS (WASHINGTON POST) ASKED WHICH POLITICAL PARTIES WOULD CONTEST THE FORTHCOMING ELECTIONS. OUDAY DID NOT KNOW, BUT SAID HE THOUGHT MOST CANDIDACIES WOULD BE INDIVIDUAL; ALL LAO OF BOTH SEXES OVER 18 WILL BE ELIGIBLE, EXCEPT THOSE CONVICTED OF CRIMES OR MENTALLY

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ILL. SIMONS ALSO ASKED WHO WOULD GIVE THE PRINCIPAL ADDRESS ON OCTOBER 12. AGAIN OUDAY DID NOT KNOW.

10. IN REPLY TO ANOTHER QUESTION, OUDAY SAID THE BORDER (I.E., MEKONG RIVER CROSSINGS) AND AIRPORT WOULD BE OPEN "AS USUAL" DURING THE WEEKEND CELEBRATIONS.

(COMMENT: IN FACT THE BORDER WAS CLOSED FOR SEVERAL DAYS DURING LAST COMPARABLE EVENT, THE "LIBERATION" OF VIENTIANE CITY AND PROVINCE IN LATE AUGUST, AND MANY LOCAL RESIDENTS ARE OPERATING ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT THE SAME WILL BE TRUE DURING THIS WEEKEND'S FESTIVITIES.)
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